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Forty-ninth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 100 (c)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ and accepted humanitarian rules, as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 3/ and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, 4/

Aware of its responsibility to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and resolved to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/37 of 24 May 1984, in which the Council requested the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights to

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

4/ Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

appoint a special rapporteur to examine the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, with a view to formulating proposals that could contribute to ensuring full protection of the human rights of the inhabitants of the country before, during and after the withdrawal of all foreign forces,

Recalling also its resolution 48/152 of 20 December 1993 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the decisions of the Economic and Social Council,

Taking note, in particular, of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/84 of 9 March 1994, 5/ in which the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan for one year and to request him to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, and of Economic and Social Council decision 1994/268 of 25 July 1994, in which the Council approved the Commission's decision,

Recalling its resolution 48/152 of 20 December 1993, and noting with concern that in 1994 the situation of human rights in Afghanistan has further deteriorated owing to the outbreak of large-scale fighting,

Recalling the Convention on Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property of 14 November 1970, 6/

Noting that, following the demise of the former Afghan Government, a transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan was established,

Noting with deep concern that in spite of the efforts and initiatives taken by the Government of Afghanistan towards ensuring complete peace and stability, a situation of armed confrontation, affecting mainly the civilian population, which is still the target of indiscriminate military attacks by rival groups and of food blockades, continues to exist in parts of the territory of Afghanistan, and in particular in Kabul, and has also caused a dramatic rise in the number of persons displaced inside the country,

Concerned that the prevailing situation in the country is affecting the security of members of all ethnic and religious groups, including minorities,

Concerned in particular that armed confrontation in Afghanistan has brought about a situation where a unified judicial system cannot be established throughout the country,

Noting with concern reports of violations of rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 2/ such as the right to

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5/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24), chap. II, sect. A.

6/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, General Conference, Records of the Sixteenth Session, vol. 1, p. 135.

life, to liberty and security of person and to freedom of opinion, expression and association,

Deeply concerned about the recurring violations of human rights specific to or primarily directed against women by some members of warring factions in Afghanistan, and about the lack of respect towards them and their physical integrity and dignity, as reported by the Special Rapporteur,

Concerned also at reports of detainees who are being held for political reasons by rival groups, in particular in prisons run by political parties,

Noting with concern that weapons and other military material are acquired by some factions through the production and sale of illicit drugs,

Noting that much remains to be done for the treatment of prisoners to be in conformity with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,

Deeply concerned at the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons, which has worsened in 1994 owing to the prevailing situation in Afghanistan, and expressing the hope that conditions in the country will allow an early resumption of the repatriation of those still in exile,

Noting with appreciation the efforts undertaken by some neighbouring countries to provide assistance to Afghan refugees pending their repatriation, despite diminishing financial and other resources,

Aware that peace and security in Afghanistan are prerequisites for the successful repatriation of about four million refugees and, in particular, for the achievement of a comprehensive political solution and the establishment of a freely and democratically elected government, the end of armed confrontation in Kabul and in some provinces, the clearance of minefields that have been laid in many parts of the country, the restoration of an effective authority in the whole country and the reconstruction of the economy,

Affirming that the declaration of general amnesty issued by the Islamic State of Afghanistan should be applied in a strictly non-discriminatory manner and that prisoners detained by rival groups without trial on Afghan territory should be released unconditionally,

Commending the activity carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross in cooperation with the Afghan authorities, as well as non-governmental organizations, in favour of the people of Afghanistan,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Special Rapporteur 7/ and of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

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7/ A/49/650, annex.

Commending the efforts by the Special Rapporteur to implement Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/45 of 4 March 1994 5/ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 8/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, by including in his report information on human rights violations affecting women,

Noting that the Special Rapporteur visited four provinces in Afghanistan, while regretting that he was unable to visit Kabul owing to the continuous shooting of rockets and artillery on the capital,

1. Welcomes the cooperation that authorities in Afghanistan have extended to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, in view of the circumstances prevailing in the country;

2. Also welcomes the cooperation that the authorities in Afghanistan have extended, in particular to the Coordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes Relating to Afghanistan and to international organizations, such as the specialized agencies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross;

3. Urges all the Afghan parties to undertake, where appropriate under the auspices of the United Nations, all possible efforts in order to achieve a comprehensive political solution, which is the only way to bring about peace and the full restoration of human rights in Afghanistan, based on the free exercise of the right to self-determination by the people, including free and genuine elections, the cessation of armed confrontation and the creation of conditions that will permit the free return, as soon as possible, of about four million refugees to their homeland in safety and dignity, whenever they wish, and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all Afghans;

4. Welcomes all the efforts towards reaching a comprehensive, peaceful political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan, and in particular the efforts of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 48/208 of 21 December 1993, with the mandate to canvass a broad spectrum of the leaders of Afghanistan, soliciting their views on how the United Nations can best assist Afghanistan in facilitating national rapprochement and reconstruction, and to submit its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Secretary-General for appropriate action;

5. Notes with appreciation the cooperation the Afghan people and leaders have provided to the Special Mission and urges all the Afghan parties to continue to work with the Special Mission with a view to achieving a comprehensive solution to the crisis in Afghanistan;

6. Urges both the Special Mission and the Special Rapporteur to exchange relevant information and to consult and cooperate with each other;

8/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

7. Urges all the parties to carry out as soon as possible a disarmament process, which constitutes a prerequisite of a solution to the conflict, as decided also in the Afghan Peace Accord signed by the Afghan parties at Islamabad on 7 March 1993; 9/

8. Invites the United Nations to offer, upon the request of the Government of Afghanistan and with due regard to the Afghan tradition, advisory services and technical assistance concerning the drafting of a constitution, which should embody internationally accepted human rights principles, and the holding of direct elections;

9. Recognizes that the promotion and protection of human rights should be an essential element in the achievement of a comprehensive solution to the crisis in Afghanistan, and calls upon all the Afghan parties to respect human rights;

10. Urges all the Afghan parties to respect accepted humanitarian rules, as set in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, to halt the use of weapons against the civilian population, to protect all civilians from acts of reprisal and violence, including ill-treatment, torture and summary executions, and to expedite the simultaneous release of prisoners wherever they may be held;

11. Urges the Afghan authorities to provide sufficient and effective remedies to the victims of grave human rights violations and to bring their perpetrators to trial in accordance with internationally accepted standards;

12. Strongly urges all the Afghan parties to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, so that their honour and dignity may be ensured in accordance with the provisions of international human rights instruments and humanitarian law;

13. Calls upon all States and parties concerned to make all efforts for the realization of its decision 47/428 of 16 December 1992, entitled "Prisoners of war and persons missing as a result of war in Afghanistan", and calls upon them to make all efforts for the immediate release of all prisoners of war, and in particular of former Soviet prisoners of war, as provided for under article 118 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, of 12 August 1949, 10/ considering that the hostilities in which the former Soviet Union was involved have legally and effectively ended, as well as for the tracing of the many Afghans still missing as the result of the war;

14. Urges the unconditional release of all prisoners detained without trial on Afghan territory by rival groups, and calls for the abolition of prisons run by political parties;

9/ S/25435, annex I.

10/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 972.

15. Calls upon the authorities in Afghanistan to investigate thoroughly the fate of those persons who have disappeared during the conflict, to apply amnesty decrees equally to all detainees, to reduce the period during which prisoners await trial, to treat all prisoners, especially those awaiting trial or those in custody in juvenile rehabilitation centres, in accordance with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, 11/ adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and to apply to all suspected or convicted persons article 14, paragraphs 3 (d) and 5 to 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

16. Stresses the need for humanitarian aid deliveries to be effected through unhindered access to all main routes to Kabul;

17. Appeals to all Member States to provide adequate humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan in order to contribute to the alleviation of the suffering of refugees and especially to the improvement of the living conditions of women and children, widows and orphans, and calls upon neighbouring countries to continue providing assistance to Afghan refugees;

18. Urges the international community to sustain the increasing financial efforts undertaken by humanitarian organizations, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other organizations of the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations, to assist the Afghan refugees;

19. Also urges the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to assist the Afghan refugees in the neighbouring countries until their voluntary repatriation can be effected, without prejudice to their security and to the enjoyment of their basic economic and social rights;

20. Urgently appeals to all Member States and humanitarian organizations to continue to promote the implementation of the projects envisaged by the Coordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes Relating to Afghanistan and the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, especially the pilot projects for the repatriation of refugees;

21. Reiterates its appeals to all Member States, humanitarian organizations and all parties concerned to cooperate fully on the subject of mine detection and clearance, in order to facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes in safety and dignity;

22. Strongly urges all the parties to the conflict to undertake all necessary measures to ensure the safety of the personnel of humanitarian organizations involved in the implementation of the United Nations humanitarian and economic assistance programmes relating to Afghanistan and programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in order to avoid further

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11/ See Human Rights, A Compilation of International Instruments (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIV.1).

deplorable incidents such as those which have caused loss of life among that personnel;

23. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to entrust the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation with the mandate, upon the invitation and with the cooperation of the Afghan authorities, with examining ways and means to restore the Kabul Museum, including through the tracing of the country's stolen articles, to propose measures aimed at preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of artefacts belonging to the Kabul Museum and to report thereon to the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

24. Recommends the translation of the report of the Special Rapporteur into the Dari and Pashtu languages;

25. Urges the authorities in Afghanistan to continue to extend their full cooperation to the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur;

26. Calls upon the Special Rapporteur to continue to gather information about specific instances of grave human rights violations and to broaden and intensify efforts in addressing human rights violations that are specific to or primarily directed against women, in order to assure the effective protection of their human rights;

27. Requests the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur;

28. Decides to keep under consideration at its fiftieth session the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.

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Agenda item 97

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Algeria:* draft resolution

Proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/111 of 20 December 1993, in which it emphasized that the ultimate goal of restructuring should be to strengthen the programmes for the advancement of women and to enhance the efficiency of the work of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in function, structure and cost-effectiveness,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/51 of 3 November 1994, which emphasized that the advancement of women should be an integral part of the economic and social development process, in national and international governance, sustainable development and gender equality,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/111; 1/

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

1/ A/49/217-E/1994/103.

2. Takes note also of the questions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions 2/ and its conclusion that further studies are necessary before a definite decision can be made on the question of the proposed merger;

3. Urges the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions so that the requests and recommendations made by it in its resolution 48/111 and by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1994/51 are implemented;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, an updated report, which would contain, inter alia, the information requested in Council decision 1993/235 of 27 July 1993 and in paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 48/111, as well as the additional information requested by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

5. Requests the Economic and Social Council to re-examine the issue, at a resumed session to take place after the Fourth World Conference on Women and before the Third Committee of the General Assembly considers the item on the advancement of women, taking into account the deliberations of the Commission of the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session, of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concerning institutional arrangements in the United Nations system for the advancement of women;

6. Decides to take a final decision at its fiftieth session on the proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, taking into account the recommendations made by the Economic and Social Council and the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session and of the Fourth World Conference on Women concerning the institutional arrangements in the United Nations system for the advancement of women;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

2/ A/49/365-E/1994/119.

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Agenda item 97

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Algeria*: draft resolution

Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 44/77 of 8 December 1989, in which, inter alia, it endorsed and reaffirmed the importance of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women for the period up to the year 2000 1/ and set out measures for their immediate implementation and for the overall achievement of the interrelated goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Recalling also its resolutions 46/98 of 16 December 1991, 47/95 of 16 December 1992 and 48/108 of 20 December 1993,

Taking into consideration the resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council on issues relating to women since the adoption of its resolution 1987/18 of 26 May 1987,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

94-48925 (E) 091294 10/12/94

Reaffirming its determination to encourage the full participation of women in economic, social, cultural, civil and political affairs and to promote development, cooperation and international peace,

Conscious of the important and constructive contribution to the improvement of the status of women made by the Commission on the Status of Women, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned,

Concerned that the resources available in the Secretariat to the programme on the advancement of women are insufficient to ensure adequate support to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and effective implementation of other aspects of the programme, especially the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1995,

Taking into account Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 36/8 of 20 March 1992, 2/ 37/7 of 25 March 1993 3/ and 38/10 of 18 March 1994 4/ on the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Bearing in mind the important role non-governmental organizations play in all activities for the advancement of women and the fact that some of them, especially those from developing countries, do not enjoy consultative status with the Economic and Social Council,

Noting with satisfaction that the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women have entered a substantive stage, that the relevant United Nations bodies, China, as the host country, and other countries all attach great importance to the preparation of the Conference and that the various preparatory activities are being conducted in an in-depth and comprehensive manner,

Considering that 1995 will be a year of crucial importance to the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, and that the Commission on the Status of Women will deliberate the content of the Platform for Action at its thirty-ninth session,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General containing the executive summary of the 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, 5/

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 4 (E/1992/24), chap. I, sect. C.

3/ Ibid., 1993, Supplement No. 7 (E/1993/27), chap. I, sect. C.

4/ Ibid., 1994, Supplement No. 7 (E/1994/27), chap. I, sect. C.

5/ A/49/378.

Expressing satisfaction that the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development 6/ establishes that the empowerment of women is a key issue for the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Also expressing satisfaction that the regional preparatory conferences for the Fourth World Conference on Women have produced plans or platforms for their regions, which provide useful inputs for the Platform for Action of the World Conference,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 7/

2. Reaffirms section I, paragraph 2, of the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, contained in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, which called for an improved pace in the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies in the crucial last decade of the twentieth century, since the cost to societies of failing to implement them would be high in terms of slowed economic and social development, misuse of human resources and reduced progress for society as a whole;

3. Urges Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to implement the recommendations;

4. Calls again upon Member States to give priority to policies and programmes relating to the sub-theme "Employment, health and education", in particular to literacy for self-reliance of women and the mobilization of indigenous resources, as well as to issues relating to the role of women in economic and political decision-making, population, the environment, information and science and technology;

5. Reaffirms the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women in matters related to the advancement of women and calls upon it to continue promoting the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies to the year 2000, based on the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace and the sub-theme "Employment, health and education", and urges all relevant bodies of the United Nations system to cooperate effectively with the Commission in this task;

6. Requests the Commission, when considering the priority theme relating to development during its thirty-ninth and subsequent sessions, to ensure its early contribution to the preparatory work for forthcoming major international conferences to be held in 1995, namely, the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace and the World Summit for Social Development, and to address the impact of technologies on women;

6/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (A/CONF.171/13), resolution 1, annex.

7/ A/49/349.

7. Also requests the Commission to give special attention to women in developing countries, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, who suffer disproportionately from the effects of the global economic crisis and the heavy external debt burden, and to recommend further measures for the equalization of opportunity and for the integration of the roles and perspective of women, as well as their needs, concerns and aspirations, into the entire development process when considering the priority theme of development;

8. Emphasize, in the framework of the Forward-looking Strategies, the importance of the total integration of women of all ages in the development process, bearing in mind the specific and urgent needs of the developing countries, and calls upon Member States to establish specific targets at each level in order to increase the participation of women in professional, management and decision-making positions in the countries;

9. Emphasizes once again the need to give urgent attention to redressing socio-economic inequities at the national and international levels as a necessary step towards the full realization of the goals and objectives of the Forward-looking Strategies through meeting the practical and strategic needs of women;

10. Strongly urges that particular attention be given by the competent United Nations organizations and Governments to the special needs of women with disabilities, elderly women and also women in vulnerable situations such as migrant and refugee women and children;

11. Urges the international community and the competent United Nations bodies and organs to place more emphasis on the sharp increase in the incidence of poverty among rural women;

12. Welcomes the recommendations adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on women, environment and development in all programmes areas, in particular those set out in chapter 24 of Agenda 21, 8/ entitled "Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development";

13. Welcomes also the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development regarding the advancement of women, contained in its Programme of Action; 6/

14. Urges organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations to ensure active participation of women in the planning and implementation of programmes for sustainable development and requests Governments, in the context of General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, to consider nominating women as representatives to the Commission on Sustainable Development;

8/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I, Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I,8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

15. Requests the Secretary-General, in formulating the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 and in integrating the Forward-looking Strategies into activities mandated by the General Assembly, to pay particular attention to specific sectoral themes that cut across the three objectives, equality, development and peace, and include, in particular, literacy, education, health, population, the impact of technology on the environment and its effect on women and the full participation of women in decision-making, and to continue to assist Governments in strengthening their national machineries for the advancement of women;

16. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue updating the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, 9/ bearing in mind its importance, placing particular emphasis on the adverse impact of the difficult economic situation affecting the majority of developing countries, particularly on the condition of women, giving special attention to worsening conditions for the incorporation of women into the labour force, as well as the impact of reduced expenditures for social services on opportunities available to women for education, health and child care;

17. Requests Governments, when presenting candidatures for vacancies in the Secretariat, in particular at the decision-making level, to give priority to candidatures of women, and requests the Secretary-General in reviewing those candidatures to give special consideration to female candidates from underrepresented and unrepresented developing countries,

18. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to report periodically to the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission, on activities undertaken at all levels to implement the Forward-looking Strategies;

19. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide for the existing weekly radio programmes on women in the regular budget of the United Nations, making adequate provisions for broadcasts in different languages, and to develop the focal point for issues relating to women in the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, which, in concert with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, should provide a more effective public information programme relating to the advancement of women;

20. Further requests the Secretary-General to include in his report on the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, an assessment of recent developments that are relevant to the priority themes to be considered at the subsequent session of the Commission and to transmit to the Commission a summary of relevant views expressed by delegations during the debate in the Assembly;

21. Requests the Commission to continue to examine the implications of the World Conference on Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of

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9/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.IV.2.

Action 10/ adopted by the Conference for its central role in matters related to the rights of women within the United Nations system and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995;

22. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the Commission, for consideration at its thirty-ninth session, on steps to be taken by the Division for the Advancement of Women, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies, specifically the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, to ensure that relevant human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, such as treaty-monitoring bodies, rapporteurs and working groups regularly address violations of the rights of women, including gender-specific abuses;

23. Recognizes that the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, proclaimed in General Assembly resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, is essential to the attainment of full respect for the rights of women and is an important contribution to efforts aimed at achieving the objectives of the Forward-looking Strategies by the year 2000;

24. Expresses its satisfaction for the smooth conclusion of the regional preparatory meetings and welcomes the results of those meetings, which constitute important inputs to the Platform for Action, the final document of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

25. Requests the Secretary-General to give more support, from within existing resources, to the Division for the Advancement of Women, acting as secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women, by providing sufficient financial and human resources and giving wide publicity to the Conference and its preparatory activities;

26. Appeals to countries that have not done so to compile their national reports in earnest and to forward them in time to the secretariat of the Conference;

27. Decides that, in order to support developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process, each least developed country, to the extent that extrabudgetary funds are available, may be provided from the trust fund established by the Secretary-General for the preparations for the Conference with travel expenses and, on an exceptional basis, daily subsistence allowance for representatives attending the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which is the preparatory body for the Conference, and the Conference itself;

28. Expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the Governments, organizations and individuals that have already contributed to the Trust Fund for the Fourth World Conference on Women;

10/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

29. Recommends the further development of methods of compilation and data collection in areas of concern identified by the Commission on the Status of Women, and urges Member States to improve and broaden collection of gender-disaggregated statistical information and make it available to the relevant bodies of the United Nations system with a view to preparing, in all official languages, as a background document for the Fourth World Conference on Women, an updated edition of The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics; 11/

30. Endorses the recommendation contained in Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/8 that the Secretary-General should include information on the decision-making position of women in public life and in the fields of science and technology in the preparation of the priority theme on peace: "Women in international decision-making", for the Commission at its thirty-ninth session, in 1995;

31. Requests the Secretary-General to make available for the Fourth World Conference on Women reports and decisions of the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development and the World Summit for Social Development;

32. Calls upon United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to participate in the Fourth World Conference on Women and consider the specific actions they will undertake, including goals and targets, to realign priorities and redirect resources to meet the global priorities identified in the Platform for Action;

33. Invites other intergovernmental organizations, similarly, to make concrete commitments to meet the global priorities for the advancement of women by the year 2000 reflected in the Platform for Action;

34. Invites Member States at the Fourth World Conference on Women to specify action which they will take in their own countries to bring about change by the year 2000;

35. Emphasizes that the success of the Fourth World Conference on Women will depend largely on a mechanisms for follow-up to the Conference;

36. Decides, taking into account Commission on the Status of Women resolution 38/10, to adopt the modalities for the participation in and contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women and its preparatory process by non-governmental organizations, particularly those from the developing countries, set out in the annex to resolution 48/108;

37. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in 1995, on the extent to which gender concerns have been included in the activities of the relevant human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, such as treaty-monitoring bodies, rapporteurs and working groups;

11/ Ibid., Sales No. E.90.XVII.3.

38. Requests that the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session for consideration and action;

39. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, taking into consideration the recommendations made at the Conference;

40. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on measures taken to implement the present resolution.

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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Malta, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines and Tunisia: draft resolution

Integration of older women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/76 of 8 December 1989, in which it was pointed out that age segregation, in addition to sex stereotyping, makes the social and economic problems of elderly women even more acute, and that they are often viewed only as beneficiaries and not as contributors to development,

Also recalling its resolution 40/30 of 29 November 1985, in which it was emphasized that the elderly must be considered an important and necessary element in the development process at all levels within a given society,

Further recalling resolution 36/4 of 20 March 1992 of the Commission on the Status of Women, 1/ in which the Commission emphasized the need to adopt an approach for the advancement of women that takes into account all stages of life, so as to identify measures that respond to women's needs,

Calling attention to the urgent need to develop and improve the publication of statistics by sex and by age, and to identify and evaluate the different forms of activities of older women which are not normally recognized as having an economic value, in particular in the informal sectors,

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1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 4 (E/1992/24).

Taking note of the proceedings of the International Symposium on Population Structure and Development, held at Tokyo in September 1987, which called attention to the fact that the United Nations had estimated that there were 208 million women aged 60 and above in 1985, of which about half lived in the developed and half in the developing world, and that by the year 2025 this number had been projected to increase to 604 million elderly women for the world as a whole, of which nearly 70 per cent will be living in the developing countries,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the joint publication of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat entitled The Situation of Elderly Women: Available Statistics and Indicators 2/ and encourages both organizations to continue their pioneering work in this field;

2. Requests the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to pay particular attention to discrimination on grounds of age when evaluating national reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; 3/

3. Invites the competent organs of the United Nations to adopt an approach that, in all their strategies and programmes for the advancement of women, takes into account all stages of life and envisages the advancement of young women, while bearing in mind the subsequent consequences of decisions taken on their account;

4. Also invites the international development agencies and organizations, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Development Programme, to take account of the potential of elderly women as a human resource for development and to include older women in their development strategies and programmes, and encourages Governments to ensure the inclusion of women, regardless of age, in development projects covered by national and multilateral financial institutions;

5. Further invites the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development to ensure that older women's concerns and contributions to development be considered under the three main agenda items of the Summit: "Elimination of poverty", "Social integration" and "Employment";

6. Urges the Commission on the Status of Women, as the preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace to ensure that older women's concerns and contributions to development be recognized and incorporated into the strategies, programmes and policies of the Platform for Action which deal with equality, development and peace;

2/ INSTRAW/SER.B/44.

3/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

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THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 97

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria and Saint Lucia*: draft resolution

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/105 of 20 December 1993, in which it urged the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to continue to strengthen its activities in the areas of research, training and information aimed at mainstreaming gender in development strategies and giving women greater visibility by evaluating their contribution to social and economic development as important means of empowering women and improving their status; emphasized the unique function of the Institute as the only entity within the United Nations system devoted exclusively to research and training for the integration of women in development, and stressed the importance of making its research findings available for policy purposes and for operational activities,

Recalling also its resolution 48/111 of 20 December 1993, in which it recognized the importance of adequate preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1995, and the role therein of the Institute,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Taking into consideration that, in its resolution 1994/30 of 27 July 1994, the Economic and Social Council reiterated the importance of maintaining the level of resources devoted to independent research and related training activities which are crucial for the situation of women,

Emphasizing that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1994/51 of 3 November 1994, stressed the urgent need for appropriate leadership and staffing for the Institute so that it could continue to comply with its mandate,

Taking into account that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1994/51 of 3 November 1994, emphasized that the advancement of women should be an integral part of the economic and social development process within the main global issues, such as women's participation in the peace process, in national and international governance, sustainable development and gender equality,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/111; 1/

2. Also takes note of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 2/

3. Reiterates the importance of maintaining the level of resources devoted to independent research and related training activities which are crucial for the situation of women;

4. Calls upon States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute, through voluntary contributions and pledges, to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, thus enabling the Institute to continue to respond effectively to its mandate;

5. Urges the Secretary-General to appoint, as expeditiously as possible, a Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and to fill the existing vacancies in order to permit the Institute to carry out its mandate;

6. Also urges the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/111, Economic and Social Council resolutions E/1994/30 and E/1994/51 of 3 November 1994 and the present resolution;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report on this question to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session under the item entitled "Advancement of Women".

1/ A/49/217-E/1994/103.

2/ A/49/365-E/1994/119.

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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Romania, Sweden, Turkey, Venezuela and Zambia: draft resolution

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, by which it adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling also its previous resolutions on the Convention, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/7 of 21 July 1994,

Welcoming the growing number of States parties to the Convention, which now stands at one hundred thirty-four,

Noting with deep concern that the Convention is still one of the human rights instruments with a large number of reservations, many which run contrary

to the object and purpose of the Convention, despite the fact that some States parties have withdrawn their reservations to it,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 1/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna in June 1993, in which the Conference stipulated that the human rights of women and the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of human rights,

Recalling also that, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Conference recommended the adoption of new procedures to strengthen implementation of the commitment to women's equality and human rights, including a call upon the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to examine quickly the possibility of introducing the right of petition through the preparation of an optional protocol to the Convention,

Taking note of the decision adopted at the Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, on 4 February 1992, 2/

Aware of the important contribution that the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 3/ can make to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and to achieving legal and de facto equality between women and men,

Having considered the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its twelfth 4/ and thirteenth 5/ sessions,

Taking note of the suggestions and general recommendations made by the Committee in accordance with its mandate, as demonstrated most recently by the Committee at its thirteenth session, at which the Committee adopted suggestion No. 6 on the International Conference on Population and Development and general recommendation No. 21 related to articles 9, 15 and 16 of the Convention as its contribution to the International Year of the Family, as well as other general recommendations made by the Committee,

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1/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

2/ See CEDAW/SP/1992/4.

3/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/48/38).

5/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/49/38).

Noting that the workload of the Committee has increased because of the growing number of States parties to the Convention, that the annual session of the Committee is still the shortest of all the annual sessions of the human rights treaty bodies and that, in spite of the recommendation by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1992/17 of 30 July 1992, which was supported by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/94 of 16 December 1992, that three weeks be allowed for each session of the Committee in order to consider the reports submitted by the States parties until the backlog in reports had been eliminated, a considerable backlog still remains,

Convinced of the need to adopt measures to enable the Committee to consider in a thorough and timely manner the reports submitted by States parties and to discharge all its responsibilities under the Convention,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the working methods of the Committee and its capacity to fulfil its mandate effectively, including a comparison of other treaty bodies, 6/

Welcoming the efforts of the Committee to further improve its working methods by adopting concluding observations containing specific suggestions and recommendations,

Recalling that, under article 17, paragraph 9, of the Convention, the Secretary-General is required to provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee,

Recalling its resolutions 44/73 of 8 December 1989, 45/124 of 14 December 1990 and 47/94 of 16 December 1992, in which, inter alia, it strongly supported the view of the Committee that the Secretary-General should accord higher priority to strengthening support for the Committee,

Strongly supporting general recommendation No. 19 of the Committee on violence against women, and calling upon States parties to prepare their periodic reports in accordance with this and other general recommendations of the Committee,

Noting with satisfaction the appointment of a Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, including its causes and consequences,

1. Expresses its satisfaction with the increasing number of States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and supports the general recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to draw attention to those reservations which are incompatible with the objective and purpose of the Convention;

2. Urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

6/ A/49/308, chap. III.

3. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;

4. Encourages States to consider limiting the extent of any reservation they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible and to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international law;

5. Requests States parties to the Convention to review their reservations regularly, with a view to withdrawing them expeditiously so that the Convention may be fully implemented;

6. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 7/ and requests him to submit annually to the General Assembly a report on the status of the Convention;

7. Takes note also of the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its twelfth 4/ and thirteenth 5/ sessions;

8. Recommends that the States parties to the Convention, in the light of the reports mentioned in paragraphs 6 and 7 review the working situation of the Committee and its capacity to fulfil its mandate more effectively, and in this context also that the States parties consider the possibility of amending article 20 of the Convention so as to allow for sufficient meeting time for the Committee;

9. Requests the States parties to the Convention to meet in 1995 in order to consider the review of article 20 of the Convention mentioned in paragraph 8;

10. Invites States parties to the Convention to make all possible efforts to submit their initial as well as their second and subsequent periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention, in accordance with article 18 thereof and with the guidelines provided by the Committee, and to cooperate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

11. Welcomes the efforts made by the Committee to rationalize its procedures and expedite the consideration of periodic reports, and strongly encourages the Committee to continue those efforts;

12. Welcomes also, in accordance with general recommendation No. 11 of the Committee, 8/ the initiatives taken to provide regional training courses on the preparation and drafting of reports of States parties for government officials and training and information seminars for States considering acceding to the Convention, and urges the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations to support such initiatives;

7/ Ibid., chap. II.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38), sect. V.

13. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to provide secretariat staff, including legal staff members expert in human rights treaty implementation, and technical resources for the effective performance by the Committee of its functions;

14. Strongly supports the view of the Committee that the Secretary-General should accord higher priority within existing resources to strengthening technical and substantive support for the Committee, in particular to assist in preparatory research;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide for, facilitate and encourage, within existing resources, the dissemination of information relating to the Committee, its decisions and recommendations, the Convention and the concept of legal literacy, taking into account the Committee's own recommendations to that end;

16. Supports the request of the Committee at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions for additional meeting time, with adequate support from the Secretariat, so as to allow for the Committee to meet once a year for three weeks for its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, and recommends that the request made by the Committee for additional meeting time be considered within the existing level of budgetary resources;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure adequate support to the Committee, and also requests the sufficient resources from within the existing regular budget be provided for that purpose to enable the Committee to deal in a thorough and timely manner with reports submitted by States parties;

18. Decides that, at its fifty-first session, it will review once again whether the backlog of the Committee in considering reports has been reduced;

19. Recommends that meetings of the Committee should be scheduled, whenever possible, to allow for the timely transmission of the results of its work to the Commission on the Status of Women, for information, in the same year;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to make the report available to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session.